

NEW ENGLAND NOTE

BARNSTABLE COUNTY RECORDS FOR
SCLERIA PAUCIFLORA VAR. *CAROLINIANA* AND
POTAMOGETON AMPLIFOLIUS

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About 25 specimens of *Scleria pauciflora* Muhl. var. *caroliniana* (Willd.) Wood (Cyperaceae) were observed on July 26, 1997 while conducting an inventory of the *Malaxis bayardii* Fern. population at a sandplain grassland field in Forestdale, Massachusetts. Previously verified reports for *S. pauciflora* have been restricted to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island, with one early report from a public golf course in Barnstable, Massachusetts (LeBlond 1988). This species is listed as Endangered (S-1) in Massachusetts.

Sorrie and Dunwiddie (1996) describe the plant as very rare in the sandplain grasslands at Ram Pasture and Trotts' Hills on Nantucket. This variety is characterized by having a pilose culm and leaves, rather than being glabrous as in var. *pauciflora*. Carolina-whipgrass ranges from southwestern New Hampshire south to Florida and Texas and inland to Michigan and Missouri. This record documents the second Barnstable County occurrence for this species.

The Forestdale plants were observed in the open scrub-pitch pine ecotone bordering a sandplain grassland community established on a seven acre open field. The field is mowed periodically during the growing season for recreational use. Associated taxa in the field edge habitat included several uncommon to rare species such as *Aletris farinosa* L., *Linum intercursum* E. Bickn., *Linum virginianum* L., *Bartonia virginica* (L.) BSP., *Lycopodium clavatum* L., *Lespedeza angustifolia* (Pursh) Elliott, and *Polygala nuttallii* T. & G. During the field visit, 120 *Malaxis bayardii* plants in full anthesis were recorded, making this the largest recorded population in Massachusetts (P. Somers, pers. comm.).

While conducting an inventory of the aquatic macrophytes in Red Brook Pond in Pocasset, Massachusetts, the authors collected a specimen of *Potamogeton amplifolius* Tuckerman (Potamogetonaceae). Although common elsewhere in the state, this appears to be the first record of this distinctive species for the Cape and Islands (Hellquist and Crow 1980). Several submerged specimens were observed and collected on September 10, 1997 in relatively shallow (1–1.5 m) water in the western section of Red Brook Pond. This species generally prefers neutral to basic pH levels rather than the usual acidic waters of the Cape (Hellquist and Crow 1980). Submerged leaves were large (>20 cm) and falcately folded with distinct venation and stipules. Floating leaves and flower stalks were not observed, though the absence of floating leaves is not uncommon (Hellquist and Crow 1980).

LITERATURE CITED

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